

The Launch of the UN Global Compact in Nigeria



Goerg Kell- Executive Director of UNGC, delivering the UN Secretary General's Message



President Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR delivering his speech at the Formal Opening Ceremony of the 12th NES

The 12th Nigerian Economic Summit (NES #12) organized by the Nigerian Economic Summit Group Ltd / Gte (NESG) held in Nigeria's Federal Capital Abuja from 6th - 9th June 2006.

The Summit was declared open by His Excellency, **President Olusegun Obasanjo** on Wednesday, June 7, 2006 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja. With the theme ***Sustaining Reforms and Unlocking Nigeria's Potentials***, the Summit provided an auspicious opportunity for the formal inauguration of the UN Global Compact Initiative in Nigeria.

At the ceremony, Mr. **Goerg Kell**, Executive Director of the UN Global Compact Office in New York, delivered Secretary General Kofi Annan's message. In his message, Secretary General **Kofi Annan** acknowledged that the inauguration represented a major step forward for the Global Compact in Africa. The rapid globalization of international markets had brought prosperity and wealth to many. But a huge proportion of the world's population had not yet reaped its benefits. It was therefore a shared duty by all stakeholders to do all to shape globalization to ensure that it spreads prosperity far more broadly among the populations of less developed countries.

He stressed further that the business community had a direct stake in helping countries reach the millennium development goals and achieve broad-based, sustainable development. Reducing poverty would help create stable and inclusive markets, as well as the purchasing power that allows markets to grow. Supporting such progress therefore made good business sense, and it made good development sense.

The Compact, a voluntary initiative is an important part of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It relies on the vision and commitment of leaders in the private sector to make its principles an integral part of their day-to-day operations. Rather than seeking regulation, sanction or confrontation, the Compact emphasizes dialogue, learning and projects. Instead of interpreting existing norms and regulatory frameworks, the Global Compact focuses on finding practical solutions.

Through the Compact, business can join hands with other sectors to find solutions to the poverty and social injustice that blight our world.

He thanked the Nigerian Government for its endorsement and support as well as the African Leadership Forum and the Nigerian Economic Summit Group for introducing the initiative in Nigeria. He solicited the commitment of both government and business leaders in Nigeria to ensure the success of the Global Compact Initiative in the country and throughout the African continent.

The following corporate organizations amongst others were formally recognized and presented with certificates of membership of the Global Compact Initiative Nigeria by Dr. Osita Ogbu, *Economic Adviser to Nigeria's President*.

- 1 Coca Cola -West Africa
- 2 BHL Holdings Nigeria Ltd
- 3 MTN Nigeria Communication Ltd
- 4 Okunnade Sijuade Holding Limited (OSHL)
- 5 Equity Line Insurance Company Ltd
- 6 SAP Nigeria
- 7 SANTON Nigeria Ltd
- 8 Super power Nigeria Ltd
- 9 Neimeth Pharmaceuticals Plc
- 10 Africa Leadership Forum
- 11 Nigeria Economic Summit Group
- 12 Nigeria Institute of International Affairs
13. Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd



L-R: Mr. Kell of UN Global compact, Thomas Woods, Deputy Asst Secretary of State, African Bureau, US State Dept
Mohammed Hayatu-Deen, Chairman NESG and Dr. Osita OGBU, Economic Adviser to the President.



L-R: Georg Kell, UN Global Compact, Mohammed Hayatu-Deen, Chairman NESG and Thomas Woods, Deputy Asst Secretary of State, African Bureau, US State Dept



L--R: Dr. Osita OGBU, Economic Adviser to the President, Kola Badejo of UNGC & Senator Ike Nwachukwu of SANTON



L-R: Dr. Osita OGBU, Economic Adviser to the President, Kola Badejo of UNGC & Mrs. Amina Oyagbola, receiving a membership certificate on behalf of MTN Nigeria.



L-R: Dr. Osita OGBU, Economic Adviser to the President, Kola Badejo of UNGC & Mrs. Ubah, receiving a membership certificate on behalf of Coca-Cola.



R: Dr. Osita OGBU, Economic Adviser to the President & Prince Toks Sijuade of OSHL



Mazi Sam Oluwabunwa receiving Neimeth Pharmaceutical's membership certificate from Dr. Osita Ogbu, EA to the President



Prof Joy Ogbu, DG of the NIIA receiving a certificate from Dr Ogbu



L-R: Dr. Osita OGBU, Economic Aaciser to the President & Chief (Mrs) faturoti Of Equity Line Insurance & and Kola Badejo of UNGC



L-R: Dr. Osita OGBU, Economic Aaciser to the President & HRH Erelu Biola Dosunmu of Super Power Nig.



Bamanga Tukur of BHL Holdings/ Chair -ABR & Mrs. Ubah of Coca-Cola



L-R: Dr. Osita OGBU, Economic Aaciser to the President & Dr. O. Ajayi ofALF